

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2003-221-C - ORDER NO. 2004-594
DECEMBER 3, 2004

IN RE: Rufus Watson, Bay Meadows Homeowners Association,)	ORDER DENYING
)	PETITION FOR
)	RECONSIDERATION
Complainants,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition for Reconsideration filed by Mr. Rufus Watson and the Bay Meadows Homeowner's Association. Mr. Watson's filing of a Petition for Reconsideration shall be considered timely, since he filed it before he actually received a mailed copy of the Order in question (Order No. 2004-466). (Mr. Watson had previously received a FAX copy.) A response to the Petition was filed by Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Horry or the Coop.). The issue in the case had to do with the rates charged for the use of pool and elevator telephones by Horry. In Order No. 2004-466, we found that due to the ramifications of this proceeding, it could have a tremendous impact on both Horry and on all telephone companies and customers in the State. We then ordered a generic proceeding on the question of rates for pool and elevator telephones.

In any event, Mr. Watson alleges various errors committed by this Commission. He states that failure to find that the Homeowners Association conducts no commercial or business activity over the phones in question was erroneous. He also notes that certain other factual findings were also erroneous, such as finding that Horry does not classify its telephone service based on the volume of calls associated with a given phone line, and finding that reclassification of Horry's telephone service could impact other Horry service and service to other carriers in the State. Mr. Watson also questions whether granting the relief would have a "tremendous impact" and a "potentially far-reaching impact." Mr. Watson states that Bay Meadows condominiums are unique and that this Commission should have ruled on the single issue of the rates for pool and elevator telephones charged by Horry.

Horry urges us to deny reconsideration and proceed with a generic hearing. Alternatively, Horry states that we should grant reconsideration with respect to our decision to schedule a generic hearing and proceed to find for Horry on the merits of the case.

We opt to deny reconsideration and proceed with a generic hearing. Surely, the question of classification of rates for pool and elevator telephones reaches beyond the simple question of what Horry charges for such telephone service to the Bay Meadows Homeowner's Association. We reiterate our belief that this matter is one of general public interest, and that our generic docket should be noticed to the public, so that other interested parties may participate. We affirm our holdings in Order No. 2004-466 and deny the Petition for Reconsideration.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/
Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)